

Relationship between Education Level and Child Marriage to Women of Reproductive Age in the Maluku Region (2017 IDHS Data Analysis)

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ABSTRACT

According to Law No. 35 of 2014 what is defined as a child is someone who is not yet 18 years old. So that child marriage is marriage that occurs to children who are not yet 18 years old. This definition of child marriage is used if one of the husband or wife is married under the age of 18 (Fauji Hadiono, 2018). This study used data from the 2017 IDHS with the number of women of childbearing age who met the criteria as the unit of analysis, namely 656 respondents. This study used a quantitative approach with a cross-sectional design, and statistical methods of logistic regression analysis. The research results show women of childbearing age who are married aged <17 years are 65.5%, and married aged > 18 years are as many as 34.3% in the Maluku Region. Besides that Child marriage among women of childbearing age in the Maluku Region is significantly related to the woman's education level (p-value <0.001), partner's education level (p-value 0.035), and area of residence (p-value <0.001).

Keywords: marriage, education, women of reproductive age

INTRODUCTION

Marriage is the union of 2 people of different sexes, giving rise to rights and obligations due to marriage (Jaya & Ranatwati, 2022). According to Article 7 paragraph 1 of Law No. 1 of 1974, it is stated that the minimum age for marriage is 19 (nineteen) years for men and 16 (sixteen) years for women. Then the regulation on the limit of women's marriage was changed again to 19 (nineteen) years according to Law Number 16 of 2019. Whereas child marriage is a marriage that is carried out both formally and informally where one or both parties are under 18 years of age (United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 2020). Meanwhile, according to the National Population and Family Planning Agency, the ideal age for a woman to have her first marriage is 21 years for women and 25 years for men. (National Population and Family Planning Agency of the Republic of Indonesia, 2020; BKKBN, 2020).

According to Law No. 35 of 2014 what is defined as a child is someone who is not yet 18 years old. So that child marriage is marriage that occurs to children who are not yet 18 years old. This definition of child marriage is used if one of the husband or wife is married under the age of 18 (Fauji Hadiono, 2018). Child marriage is a problem that occurs in various regions of the world, and has become an international concern because of the risks arising from child marriage. (National Population and Family Planning Agency of the Republic of Indonesia, 2020).

The rate of child marriage in Indonesia is still high, and in general it occurs more among women of childbearing age in rural areas than those in urban areas. (Damayanti, 2021). In 2018, there were 1,220,900 women aged 20-24 who were married before they were 18 years old. With this figure, Indonesia is included in the 10 countries with the highest child marriages in the world. Based on the age of first marriage for girls in Indonesia in 2018 it is known that the prevalence of women 20 -24

years of first marriage at ages < 15, < 16, < 17, and < 18 years tends to be higher in rural areas than in urban areas.(BPS, Ministry, PPN/Bappenas, UNICEF, and PUSKAPA, 2020).

The prevalence of first marriage after <18 years of age in women of childbearing age in North Maluku Province is a province with a high prevalence in the Maluku & Papua region which is 13.36%(BPS, Ministry, PPN/Bappenas, UNICEF, and PUSKAPA, 2020).According to reports Indonesian Central Bureau of Statistics (2022)It is known that the proportion of marital status <18 years in North Maluku Province is the highest province among the Maluku and Papua regions of 12.52, while Maluku is also the province with the smallest proportion of marital status <18 years of 3.89.

Child marriage causes many negative impacts on various aspects of life both in general and specifically for children. In general, the impact felt when child marriage continues to increase is an increase in poverty(World Health Organization, UNICEF, Childhood Violence Against, 2020)The impact on children is that they are mentally forced to become adults in taking responsibility in acting as husband/wife or parent, so that women who marry at a young age and work will experience a higher double burden because they have to work and take care of the household.(BPS, Ministry, PPN/Bappenas, UNICEF, and PUSKAPA, 2020).

Child marriage has a relationship between risk factors and education level. Education influences the mindset to make decisions(Elisabeth Putri Lahitani Tampubolon, 2021). According to Batyra & Pesando (2021)which states that the higher the level of education the less likely it is to get married at a young age, so the lower the level of education the more likely it is to get married at a young age. This can also happen because the low level of education makes teenagers who should be busy with learning activities become no clear activities, so that this becomes a trigger to encourage children to date and eventually marry.(Fauji Hadiono, 2018). In general, the economic level in rural areas is lower than in urban areas, so that rural areas tend to have a lower level of education. This causes child marriage to occur more frequently in rural areas than in urban areas(Damayanti, 2021).

Child marriage has a relationship between risk factors and working status. Working status in child marriage tends to occur in women who are not working(Elisabeth Putri Lahitani Tampubolon, 2021). While men who are already working are more ready to have a marriage than men who are not working(Damayanti, 2021).

Child marriage has a risk factor relationship with the area of residence. Areas of residence in rural areas tend to have more marriages at a young age than those in urban areas(Damayanti, 2021). According to Leridon (2015)people who live in urban areas spend more time to achieve the desired goals such as education and employment.

Based on the research background, this research was conducted to examine the risk factors that affect child marriage in the Maluku Region (Provinces of Maluku and North Maluku). This study used 2 variables, namely the dependent variable (age at first marriage) and independent variables (educational level of women of childbearing age, partner's education level, working status of women of childbearing age, partner's employment status, and area of residence).

MATERIALS & METHODS

The study used data from the 2017 Indonesian Demographic and Health Survey (IDHS). Respondents to this study were women of childbearing age (WUS) aged 15-49 in the Maluku Region. The child marriages in this study were women of childbearing age who were already married. All of this data is in accordance with the data available in the 2017 IDHS. This study used data from the 2017 IDHS with the number of women of childbearing age who met the criteria as the unit of analysis, namely 656 respondents. This study used a quantitative approach with a cross-sectional design, and statistical methods of logistic regression analysis.

RESULTS

Description of the Age of Child Marriage in the Maluku Region

Table1. Characteristics of child age marital status

Fertility	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Married < 17 years	431	65.5%
Married > 18 years	225	34.3%
Total	656	100%

Based on table 2, it is known that 65.5% of women of childbearing age who are married aged <17 years, and married aged > 18 years are as many as 34.3%in the Maluku Region.

Table2. Characteristics of risk factors for child marriage

Variable	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Education Level of Women		
Low education	127	19.4
Moderate education	361	55.0
Higher education	168	25.6
Spouse Education Level		
Low education	105	16.0
Moderate education	382	58.2
Higher education	169	25.8
WUS Working Status		
Doesn't work	289	44,1
Work	367	55.9
Spouse Working Status		
Doesn't work	16	2.4
Work	640	97.6
Residential Area		
Rural	382	58.2
Urban	274	41.8

Based on the results in table 2 it is known that:

- Educational level of a woman of childbearing agein the Maluku Regionat most moderately educated as much as 55%, compared with low educated as much as 19.4% and highly educated as much as 25.6%.
- Education level of female partners of childbearing agein the Maluku Regionmost have moderate education as much as 58.2%, compared with low education as much as 16% and highly educated as much as 25.8%.

- c. Working status of women of childbearing age in Maluku Region the most who work as much as 59.1%, compared with 44.1% who do not work.
- d. Working status of female partners of childbearing age in Maluku Region the most who work as much as 97.6%, compared with 2.4% who do not work.
- e. The area where the woman lives is fertile in the Maluku Region more who live in rural areas as much as 58.2% compared to urban areas as much as 41.8%.

Relationship of Child Marriage with Risk Factors in the Maluku Region

Table 3. Relationship of Child Marriage with Risk Factors in the Maluku Region

Variable	Marriage Age				Total	Sig
	Married < 17 years		Married > 18 years			
	n	%	n	%		
WUS Education Level						
Low education	94	14.3%	33	5.0%	127	< 0.001
Moderate education	253	38.6%	108	16.5%	361	
Higher education	84	12.8%	84	12.8%	168	
Spouse Education Level						
Low education	77	11.7%	28	4.3%	105	0.035
Moderate education	255	38.9%	127	19.4%	382	
Higher education	99	15.1%	70	10.7%	169	
WUS Working Status						
Doesn't work	186	28.4%	103	15.7%	289	0.521
Work	245	37.3%	122	18.6%	367	
Spouse Working Status						
Work	8	1.2%	8	1.2%	16	0.192
Not working	423	64.5%	217	33.1%	640	
Residential Area						
Rural	273	41.6%	109	16.6%	382	<0.001
Urban	158	24.1%	116	17.7%	274	

Variable	P-values	OR (95% CI)
WUS Education Level		
Low education	0.401	1.216 (.771 – 1.919)
Moderate education	0.000	2,848 (1,730 – 4,690)
Higher education		
WUS Spouse Education Level		
Low education	0.031	1.370 (0.846 – 2.218)
Moderate education	0.201	1,944 (1,145 – 3,303)
Higher education		
WUS Working Status		
Doesn't work	0.521	0.899 (0.60 – 1.244)
Work		
Spouse Working Status		
	0.188	0.513 (0.190 – 1.386)

Doesn't work		
Work		
Residential Area		
Rural	0.000	1,839 (1,326 – 2,549)
Urban		

Based on table 3. the results of the biavariabel analysis using the logistic regression test with a p-value <0.05, it is known that child marriage among women of childbearing age in the Maluku Region is significantly related to the woman's educational level (p-value <0.001), the education level of the spouse (p-value <0.001), p-value 0.035), and area of residence (p-value <0.001).

The relationship between child marriage among women of childbearing age in North Maluku Province and the education level of women explains that women of childbearing age with a moderate level of education have a 2 times greater risk of marrying at a young age.

The relationship between child marriage among women of childbearing age in North Maluku Province and the education level of their partners explains that women of childbearing age who have partners with moderate levels of education have one times greater risk of marrying at a young age.

The relationship between child marriage among women of childbearing age in North Maluku Province and the area of residence explains that women of childbearing age who live in rural areas have one times greater risk of marrying at a young age.

The Most Influential Risk Factors for Child Marriage in the Maluku Region

Table 4 Child Marriage at WUS in the Maluku Region is Influenced by the Area of Residence

Variable	B	Sig.	Exp (B)/ Adjusted OR	95%CI	
				Lower	Upper
Spouse Education Level					
Low education	0.215	0.137	1,240	0.760	2,021
Moderate education	0.511	0.389	1,667	0.970	2,864
Higher education					
Residential Area					
Rural					
Urban	0.553	0.001	1,739	1,247	2,415

Based on table 4, the results of the multivariate analysis show that the variable which is the most influential risk factor for child marriage for women of childbearing age in the Maluku region is the area of residence.

Description of Child Marriage in Women of Reproductive Age

Child marriage is one of the risk factors that causes the population to increase, this is because by marrying at a young age tends to have more children (Rahman, 2023; Sartika et al., 2022). Besides that, marrying at a young age tends to have children at a young age, this of course will also have a greater risk for women of childbearing age both from a mental and health perspective. (Elisabeth Putri Lahitani Tampubolon, 2021). Mentally, children who marry at an easy age experience a double burden where they should experience the process of maturation growth, when married women have to work and take care of children at the same time (Sekarayu & Nurwati, 2021). Health-wise, women who are married at child age have a greater risk of experiencing death during labor or delivery (Nelwan, 2019). In addition, there are many more impacts on reproductive health for women who have married at a young age (Elisabeth Putri Lahitani Tampubolon, 2021).

Based on the results of the study it was found that 65.5% of women of childbearing age who were married aged <17 years, and married aged > 18 years were as many as 34.3% in the Maluku

Region. This shows that child marriages to women of childbearing age in North Maluku Province still occur frequently and even have a larger percentage than marriages > 18 years.

Relationship of Child Marriage in Women of Reproductive Age with Risk Factors

Relationship between Education Level and Child Marriage at WUS

Child marriage to women of childbearing age in the Maluku Region has a significant relationship with education level, as can be seen from the $p\text{-value} = <0.001$ ($p\text{-value} < 0.05$). The OR value of 2.848 indicates that women of childbearing age with a moderate level of education have a 2 times greater risk of marrying at a young age. The results of this study are in line with research Belachew et al., (2023) which states that women of childbearing age tend to be able to make decisions for themselves. This is also supported by research Elisabeth Putri Lahitani Tampubolon, (2021) which states that the level of education of women affects child marriage, because the level of education is related to the mindset for making decisions including the choice to marry.

Correlation between Education Level of Spouse and Child Marriage at WUS

Child marriage to women of childbearing age in the Maluku Region has a significant relationship with the partner's education level, as can be seen from the $p\text{-value} = 0.035$ ($p\text{-value} < 0.05$). The OR value of 1.944 indicates that women of childbearing age who have a partner with a moderate level of education have 1 times greater risk of marrying at a young age. The results of this study are in line with research Damayanti, (2021) which explains that there is a significant relationship between the education level of the partner and the first marriage age of women of childbearing age. This is because women of childbearing age who have partners with moderate education tend to be at risk of 1 times greater to marry at a young age. According to Fauji Hadiono (2018) The level of education is important in decisions that affect marriage, this is because if you don't have an education it results in teenagers looking for activities other than learning activities so that they encourage dating and eventually marrying.

Relationship between Residential Areas and Child Marriage at WUS

Child marriage to women of childbearing age in the Maluku Region has a significant relationship with the area of residence, as can be seen from the $p\text{-value} = <0.001$ ($p\text{-value} < 0.05$). The OR value of 1.839 indicates that women of childbearing age who live in rural areas have one times greater risk of marrying at a young age. The results of this study are in line with research BPS, Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas, UNICEF, and PUSKAPA, (2020) states that women of childbearing age in rural areas are 2 times more likely to marry at a young age than girls in urban areas. Apart from that according to Damayanti (2021) which states that child marriage is related to the area of residence, this is because the incidence of child marriage occurs more in rural areas than in urban areas.

Child Marriage at WUS is Influenced by the Area of Residence

Based on table 4, child marriage among women of childbearing age in the Maluku Region is influenced by the area of residence. Women of childbearing age who live in rural areas have a greater risk of marrying at a young age (OR 1.739 ($p\text{-value} 0.001$)) compared to women of childbearing age who live in urban areas. So that women of childbearing age who live in rural areas have a 1 times greater risk of marrying at a young age compared to women of childbearing age who live in urban areas.

The results of this study are in line with research Ahonsi et al., (2019) which states that child marriage to women of childbearing age is influenced by the area of residence, women of childbearing age who live in rural areas have a greater risk of marrying at a young age. BPS, Ministry of National Development Planning/Bappenas, UNICEF, and PUSKAPA, (2020) also stated that women of childbearing age in rural areas tend to marry more at a young age than those in urban areas, thus indicating that there is a need for intervention at the regional level, especially in rural areas to prevent and respond to the practice of child marriage.

CONCLUSION

The research results show women of childbearing age who are married aged <17 years are 65.5%, and married aged > 18 years are as many as 34.3% in the Maluku Region. The high child marriage among women of childbearing age in the Maluku region has a relationship with the woman's education level (p-value <0.001), partner's education level (p-value 0.035), and area of residence (p-value <0.001). Child marriage to women of childbearing age in the Maluku region is a place of residence with values OR 1.739 (p-value 0.001), which means that women of childbearing age in the Maluku region who live in rural areas have a 1 times greater risk of marrying at a young age.

Child marriage to women of childbearing age will affect fertility which will have an impact on an increasing number of population, besides that women of childbearing age who marry at a young age tend to have more negative risks than positive ones. So it is necessary to take measures to prevent child marriage which are more efficient and firm in all societies, including those in charge of government, religion, community leaders, and parents. Efforts should be made to implement this action, especially in rural areas, given that many child marriages occur due to environmental factors in the area where they live.

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